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Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4731

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, LU
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

REF: (A) LUXEMBOURG 623 (B) STATE 192620

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN GRATIFIED BY DEPARTMENT'S FLEXIBILITY AND IMAGINATIVE USE OF IVP PARTIAL GRANTS DURING PRIME MINISTER THORN'S PRESIDENCY OF UNGA. ALL THREE NEWSPAPERMEN WHO PARTICIPATED WERE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THEIR VISITS AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES HAVE REFLECTED A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED STATES. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO FUND ONE ADDITIONAL GRANT, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WELL WORTHWHILE FOR REASONS STATED BELOW.

2. WE HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BY GOVERNMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN ANDRE CLAUDE AND RADIO-TELEVISION LUXEMBOURG (RTL) ON BEHALF OF RTL INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR PAUL LEUCK, WHO WILL BE COVERING UN DEBATES IN NEW YORK IN EARLY NOVEMBER AND THORN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 12. CLAUDE AND RTL AWARE OF PROGRAMS ARRANGED FOR MONTAIGU, DIBARTOLOMEO AND ZECHES AND INQUIRED IF SOMETHING SIMILAR COULD BE DONE FOR MR. LEUCK. AS FAR AS CLAUDE KNOWS, THIS IS THE LAST OF THE LUXEMBOURG JOURNALISTS WHO WILL BE GOING TO NEW YORK TO COVER THORN'S UN ACTIVITIES.

3. IN ALL CANDOR, LEUCK HARDLY FITS THE NORMAL INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT CRITERIA. HE IS IN HIS LATE 50'S AND HAS PROBABLY REACHED THE TOP OF HIS CAREER. ON
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THE OTHER HAND, HE IS REGARDED AS THE DEAN OF LUXEMBOURG

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RADIO, AND HIS JOB AS INTERNATIONAL EDITOR/REPORTER FOR RTL GIVES HIM A GREAT DEAL OF INFLUENCE BOTH LOCALLY AND WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. LEUCK'S BROADCASTS IN LUXEMBOURGISH AND FRENCH REACH A WIDE AUDIENCE NOT ONLY IN THE GRAND DUCHY BUT IN FRANCE, GERMANY AND BELGIUM AS WELL. HE HAS BEEN TO THE STATES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS; ONCE IN 1958 ON A NATO RELATED TOUR OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. ONE OF HIS DAUGHTERS IS MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN IS IS PRESENTLY STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA. LEUCK'S HOBBY IS THE AMERICAN WEST, AND PARTICULARLY THE AMERICAN INDIAN, AND HE IS SOMEWHAT OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY ON THESE SUBJECTS. LEUCK WOULD LIKE TO SPEND A WEEK OR TEN DAYS VISITING THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES FOLLOWING THE NOVEMBER 12 THORN VISIT. UPON HIS RETURN TO LUXEMBOURG, HE WOULD PREPARE A NUMBER OF RADIO BROADCASTS ON CONDITIONS IN THE WEST AND THE AMERICAN INDIAN.

4. EMBASSY PROPOSES A MINIMUM PROGRAM FRO LEUCK. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND WOULD NOT NEED EXTENSIVE INTRODUCTIONS OR ASSISTANCE IN THE AREAS HE WOULD VISIT. IF THE DEPARTMENT COULD FUND EVEN A PART OF HIS INTERNAL TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION COSTS AND ARRANGE A FEW INTRODUCTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM IN THE SOUTHWEST, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE RELATIVELY SMALL INVESTMENT WOULD PAY HANDSOME DIVIDENDS.

5. IF DEPARTMENT APPROVES PROGRAM FOR LEUCK, EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR ITINERARY AND CONTACTS. WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY REPLY. FARKAS

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